



# Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 December 2005

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is

**ELEVATED**  
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF  
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

## Daily Highlights

- The Associated Press reports Ford Motor Co. has informed about 70,000 active and former white-collar employees that a computer with company data, including social security numbers, was stolen from a Ford facility. (See item [4](#))
- The New York Times reports New York City transit employees returned to work on Thursday, December 22, with limited subway and bus service, after the union's executive board accepted a preliminary framework of a settlement plan as a basis to end the walkout. (See item [9](#))
- The Los Angeles Times reports the flu season has hit early and hard with emergency rooms across Los Angeles becoming crowded with people suffering flu-like symptoms in the last few weeks. (See item [17](#))

## DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information Technology and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons](#); [General](#); [DHS Daily Report Contact Information](#)

## Energy Sector

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 22, Pacific Daily News (Guam)* — **Disconnection cuts power in Guam.** Hundreds of Guam residents were without electricity on Wednesday, December 21, because of two separate power outages. On Wednesday morning a main transmission line along Carnation Avenue in Latte Heights was somehow disconnected, causing areas in Mangilao, Dededo and

nearby villages to be without power, said Guam Power Authority spokesperson Art Perez. Crews were able to repair the line and restore power to affected areas within hours, but in the process. Power officials did not know the cause of the downed line. Also, a breaker failure in the Talofoto substation was reported later in the morning, affecting areas in Ipan, Talofoto, down to Bear Rock in Inarajan, Perez said. That problem was also repaired within hours, Perez said.

Source: <http://www.guampdn.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051222/N EWS01/512220312/1002>

2. *December 22, Associated Press* — **OPEC likely to cut oil output.** The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is likely to reduce its crude-oil production after the high-demand Northern Hemisphere winter, the group's president said Thursday, December 22. "I expect OPEC to decrease output for the second quarter," Sheikh Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said, adding that the group isn't expected to change its production policy for the first quarter. His remarks, made during a one-day visit to Beijing to meet with top Chinese policy makers, are the latest hint from OPEC of its concerns that oil demand will fall after winter, bringing prices down. On December 12, OPEC agreed to keep current production unchanged, although ministers have indicated they stand ready to cut back if needed at a meeting scheduled for January 31 in Vienna. The group's official quota stands at 28 million barrels a day, the highest in its history, and applies to the 10 active members, excluding Iraq.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/business/AP-China-OPEC.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

3. *December 21, Associated Press* — **Navy payments for Katrina loss questioned.** A Navy plan to pay Gulf Coast shipbuilders about \$1.7 billion for losses related to damages and construction delays from Hurricane Katrina may overstate the actual costs and could dampen efforts to collect insurance payments, according to a Congressional report. The nonpartisan Congressional Research Service said Northrop Grumman may be able to collect insurance claims for future increased costs related to labor and overhead. If the government pays now, the report said, the company will have little incentive to negotiate with insurers for those payments. The researchers said Northrop Grumman may be covered for losses related to disruption of work caused by the hurricane, and suggested the company could collect for increased labor costs on ship construction that is a year or more down the road. However, officials from the Navy and Northrop Grumman said Wednesday, December 21, that there is no overlap between the company's insurance claims and the Navy's funding. Northrop Grumman's facilities in New Orleans and Pascagoula, MS, where nine ships are under construction, were heavily damaged in the hurricane. Two other Navy ships were near completion at the time, and both were turned over to the Navy and moved out in recent weeks.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/21/AR2005122101835.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Banking and Finance Sector**

4. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Ford computer with employee data reported stolen.** Ford Motor Co. informed about 70,000 active and former white-collar employees that a computer with company data, including social security numbers, was stolen from a Ford facility. In an e-mail sent to "Affected U.S. Salaried Employees," Joe Laymon, group vice president for human resources, told staffers that their personal information may have been compromised, though the company had "no evidence that there has been identity theft or misuse of employee information." Ford spokesperson Kathleen Vokes said that she couldn't comment on the specifics of the theft because of the investigation. She said, however, that there was no product, supplier, customer, engineering or financial information on the computer. Vokes said Ford is working with law enforcement on the investigation.

Source: [http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051222/A\\_UTO01/512220429](http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20051222/A_UTO01/512220429)

5. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Federal Reserve fines bank for violating money laundering laws.** The Federal Reserve Board ordered ABN AMRO Bank NV to pay roughly \$80 million in fines Monday, December 19, for conducting financial transactions with Iran and Libya that violated U.S. money laundering laws. The financial services company, headquartered in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, acknowledged to federal regulators last year that employees of its Dubai, United Arab Emirates, office processed wire transfers between 1997 and 2004 on behalf of Iranian and Libyan clients. Wire transfers involving Iranian and Libyan nationals were prohibited during that period by the Office of Foreign Assets Control, a division of the U.S. Treasury. In a statement, ABN AMRO Board Chairman Rijkman Groenink said he accepted the sanctions and that the company has taken significant steps to improve compliance control and risk management.

Enforcement actions: <http://www.federalreserve.gov/boarddocs/press/enforcement/2005/20051219/default.htm>

Source: <http://www.financetech.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=175007730>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

6. *December 22, Government Computer News* — **TSA may revive Registered Traveler program.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is soliciting plans for a reborn Registered Traveler program, in a possible bid to expand the five-airport pilot that bloomed last year and faded this fall. The Registered Traveler program pilot relied on citizens submitting biographical details so that the government could process them through airport security checkpoints more quickly. Carrie Harmon, spokesperson for the agency, said TSA ended the pilot program, which had started in August 2004, on September 30. She added that the agency plans to look at different models for the Registered Traveler program with an eye to having a

national version up and running in the summer of 2006. The travelers who participate in the program likely would pay fees for the privilege of getting the security screening and the resulting faster passage through airports. TSA issued a request for information on December 15. Request for information:

<http://www1.fbo.gov/spg/DHS-BT/TSA/HQTSA/Reference%2DNumber%2D21%2D06%2D206TTC000/Synopsis.html>

Source: [http://www.gcn.com/vol1\\_no1/daily-updates/37819-1.html](http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/37819-1.html)

7. *December 22, New York Times* — **Airline grounds fleet after seaplane crash.** The airline whose 1940's seaplane crashed in Miami this week grounded the rest of its fleet Wednesday, December 21, after investigators found a large crack in the wing spar of the plane involved in the deadly accident. A spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration said the company, Chalk's Ocean Airways, voluntarily stopped flying pending rigorous inspection of its four remaining Grumman G-73T Turbine Mallards, all built more than 50 years ago. Investigators, meanwhile, finished removing the wreckage of Chalk's Flight 101 from the shipping channel where it crashed just after takeoff Monday afternoon, December 19, killing 15 adult passengers, three infants and two pilots, many of whom were found still strapped into their seats. The next task is to investigate why the so-called fatigue crack went undetected and whether the age of the plane, built in 1947, was a factor. The airline industry has worried about metal fatigue since 1988, when part of the roof peeled off an Aloha Airlines plane in flight, sweeping a flight attendant to her death. Fatigue can be found by several inspection techniques, experts say, and the spot where it was found on the seaplane — on the spar, an internal beam of aluminum, near the fuselage — is the first place to look.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/national/22florida.html?pa\\_gewanted=all](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/national/22florida.html?pa_gewanted=all)

8. *December 22, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation proposes code sharing authority to Skyteam Alliance members.** The Department of Transportation on Thursday, December 22, proposed to grant broad code sharing authority to six members of the SkyTeam international aviation alliance, including Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, as well as Air France, KLM, Alitalia, and Czech Airlines. This proposed decision means the carriers would be able to place their codes and sell tickets on the flights of the other carriers. The Department issued its proposed decision after seeking public comment on the application. Comment on the proposed decision is due January 12.

The Department's show-cause order, carrier filings, and comments are available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>; docket OST-2004-19214.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot18605.htm>

9. *December 22, New York Times* — **Transit Union ends strike after three days.** New York City transit employees returned to work on Thursday, December 22, with limited subway and bus service, officials from Transit Workers Union, Local 100, said at mid-afternoon on Thursday. The order to return to work came after the union's executive board voted 38 to five, with two abstentions, to accept a preliminary framework of a settlement plan as a basis to end the walkout. The framework had already been agreed to by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). State mediators devised the framework for a settlement after all-night negotiations with the union and the MTA. It remains unclear when all subways and buses will start running again, but it could take up to 18 hours to fully restore service. The resumption of bus and subway service would end a 60-hour ordeal for New Yorkers, in which residents —

who are heavily dependent upon public transportation — resorted to walking, bicycling, hitchhiking and enduring traffic jams as early as 3:30 a.m. to get into Manhattan for work.

Source: [http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/nyregion/22cnd-strike.html?hp&ex=1135314000&en=90c3876d71002d55&ei=5094&partner=homepa\\_ge](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/22/nyregion/22cnd-strike.html?hp&ex=1135314000&en=90c3876d71002d55&ei=5094&partner=homepa_ge)

10. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Southwest has waiver to land at Midway with lower visibility.** Officials say Southwest Airlines has a waiver to land at Midway International Airport when visibility is below standard safety regulations. Visibility is one focus of the National Transportation Safety Board's (NTSB) investigation into the December 8 accident in which a Southwest plane skidded off a Midway runway and into a city street, killing a six-year-old boy in a car and injuring 10 others, federal and airline officials said. "Everything will come out as we investigate the rules and waivers for flying into Midway," NTSB spokesperson Keith Holloway said Wednesday, December 21. Southwest's waiver from the Federal Aviation Administration allows planes to land when visibility is below the standard three-quarters of a mile. Officials said it is relatively common for airlines to seek certain regulation waivers in order to take advantage of advanced cockpit technology. Under Southwest's waiver, the pilots of the flight involved in the overrun accident operated legally as long as visibility was at least a half-mile when they started their approach to the airport, FAA spokesperson Tony Molinaro said. Pilots also must be specially trained and certified before being allowed to land at Midway with only half-mile visibility.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-22-swa-midway\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-22-swa-midway_x.htm)
11. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Delta asks for six-month extension to file reorganization plan.** Citing in part the time it will take to further cut costs, Delta Air Lines, the nation's third-largest carrier, asked a bankruptcy court judge Thursday, December 22, to give the company a six-month extension to file its reorganization plan. The Atlanta-based company, which filed for Chapter 11 in New York on September 14, currently has a January 12 deadline to exclusively file its reorganization plan and a March 13 deadline to seek acceptance of the plan from creditors. In a filing with the court, Delta asked to extend the deadlines 180 days to July 11 and September 9, respectively. Once an exclusivity period ends, creditors are allowed to submit reorganization plans to the court. Besides the need for more time to reduce its cost structure, Delta said in Thursday's filing that it wants time to further implement changes in its route structure and aircraft fleet and to begin to explore possible sources of enough cash to emerge from Chapter 11.  
Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-22-delta-extensi on\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-12-22-delta-extensi on_x.htm)
12. *December 22, Fleet Owner* — **Hurricane-damaged ports on road to recovery.** A survey by the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) finds that most of the Gulf Coast seaports damaged by hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma have returned to full or nearly full operation. Even those with the most extensive damage are reporting significant progress toward accommodating normal volumes of freight and passengers, said Kurt Nagle, AAPA's president & CEO. The Port of New Orleans and the two largest ports along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Pascagoula and Gulfport, received the brunt of Katrina's impacts, yet all are reporting significant progress to date. Gary LaGrange, Port of New Orleans president and CEO, said the Port is seeing the return of about half of its normal ship call activity and about 60 percent of its normal trucking activity, even though approximately one-third of the port's infrastructure was heavily damaged by Katrina. And despite initial devastation at his port, Pascagoula's port

director Mark McAndrews said his seaport's public facilities should be operating at approximately 75 percent of pre-Katrina levels by the end of December.  
APAA news release on ports: <http://www.aapa-ports.org/pressroom/dec2105.htm>  
Source: [http://fleetowner.com/news/hurricane\\_katrina\\_port\\_recovery\\_repair\\_122205/](http://fleetowner.com/news/hurricane_katrina_port_recovery_repair_122205/)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Agriculture Sector**

13. *December 21, Associated Press* — **Bovine tuberculosis likely found in a wild deer in Minnesota.** Minnesota is preparing to expand its surveillance for bovine tuberculosis (TB) after a wild deer killed in Roseau County tested "presumptive positive" for the disease, officials said Wednesday, December 21. The state Board of Animal Health is working with other state and federal agencies to develop a coordinated response if it's confirmed that the deer had the disease. The test results won't be available for several weeks. The deer was shot by a hunter near the town of Skime in far northwestern Minnesota, in an area where several cattle herds were diagnosed with bovine TB earlier this year. The response would include enhancing surveillance and testing, re-certifying veterinarians to test for bovine TB, providing information to the public, and expediting the establishment of a National Animal Identification System in Minnesota. Minnesota has quarantined 43 herds of cattle in its bovine TB investigation since the disease was detected in the first herd in July. Thirty-six of those herds were released from quarantine after testing showed no infections in them. Three herds are still being tested. "If TB is confirmed in free-ranging deer it's going to take additional work to eradicate bovine TB from the state," State Veterinarian Bill Hartman said.  
Source: <http://www.twincities.com/mld/twincities/news/state/minnesot a/13461619.htm>

14. *December 19, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-06-132: Plum Island Animal Disease Center: DHS and USDA Are Successfully Coordinating Current Work, but Long-Term Plans Are Being Assessed (Report).** To protect against animal disease losses, research and diagnostic activities are conducted at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in New York. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was responsible for Plum Island until June 2003, when provisions of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred the facility to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined DHS and USDA coordination of research and diagnostic activities, changes in research and diagnostic priorities since the transfer, and long-term objectives of joint activities at Plum Island. DHS and USDA's coordination at Plum Island Animal Disease Center has been largely successful. Since the transfer priorities and the scope of work have been modified. The Agricultural Research Service narrowed its research priorities to focus its work primarily on foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). National experts consulted confirmed the importance of studying FMD, but stated that it is also important to study a variety of other diseases to remain prepared. They suggested that some of the work that does not require the unique features of

Plum Island could be performed elsewhere. While the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's overall priorities have not changed, diagnostic work has been curtailed. DHS has assumed responsibility for operations and maintenance at Plum Island and has established an applied research science and agricultural forensics team.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d06132high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06132.pdf>

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Food Sector**

15. *December 22, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **New guidance proposed to reduce risk from lead exposure in certain candy.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Wednesday, December 21, issued a draft guidance that aims to further lower children's exposure to small traces of lead present in certain candies. FDA has taken this action to significantly reduce the current guidance level for lead in food after testing of certain types of Mexican candy products showed evidence of lead contamination at levels above those presently allowed. The new guidance level that is proposed is 0.1 part per million (ppm) of lead, significantly lower than the current guidance level of 0.5 ppm. While most domestic and imported candies contain lead levels of 0.1 ppm or less, data that FDA gathered through sampling imported candy from Mexico and other information received by FDA revealed that certain ingredients often used in these candy products may be a source of avoidable lead exposure. These ingredients include chili powder and certain types of salt, which are used in these candies. In addition, FDA is concerned that there may be certain manufacturing processes or conditions that contribute to elevated lead levels in some of these candies, such as packing products or storing ingredients in improperly glazed ceramic vessels that may leach high levels of lead into the product.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2005/NEW01284.html>

16. *December 20, U.S. Food and Drug Administration* — **Pet food recalled.** Diamond Pet Food has discovered aflatoxin in a product manufactured at its facility in Gaston, SC. Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring toxic chemical by-product from the growth of the fungus *Aspergillus flavus*, on corn and other crops. Distributors have been notified. Products manufactured at facilities in Meta, MO, and Lathrop, CA, are not affected. States serviced by the Gaston facility include Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Vermont, and Virginia.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/diamond12\\_05.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/diamond12_05.html)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Water Sector**

Nothing to report.

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Public Health Sector**

17. *December 22, Los Angeles Times (CA)* — **Flu season hits early and hard.** Emergency rooms across Los Angeles have become crowded with people suffering flu-like symptoms in the last few weeks, signaling an earlier start to the winter flu season, public health authorities said Wednesday, December 21. The increase has caused some hospitals to request paramedics to divert patients to other facilities. "We're hearing that hospitals are very overwhelmed," said Carol Meyer, director of Los Angeles County's Emergency Medical Systems Agency. Eleven children have been hospitalized with serious cases, which is more than expected for mid-December, said Jonathan Fielding, Los Angeles public health director. At Long Beach Memorial Medical Center, the number of flu cases seen in cultures has jumped dramatically in recent weeks. Two weeks ago, the center identified fewer than 20 confirmed flu cultures; on Monday, December 19, it was 45.  
Source: <http://www.latimes.com/features/health/medicine/la-me-flu22dec22.1.1636370.story?coll=la-health-medicine>
18. *December 22, New England Journal of Medicine* — **Oseltamivir resistance during treatment of Influenza A (H5N1) infection.** Influenza A (H5N1) virus with an amino acid substitution in neuraminidase conferring high-level resistance to oseltamivir was isolated from two of eight Vietnamese patients during oseltamivir treatment. Both patients died of influenza A (H5N1) virus infection, despite early initiation of treatment in one patient. Surviving patients had rapid declines in the viral load to undetectable levels during treatment. These observations suggest that resistance can emerge during the currently recommended regimen of oseltamivir therapy and may be associated with clinical deterioration and that the strategy for the treatment of influenza A (H5N1) virus infection should include additional antiviral agents.  
Source: <http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/353/25/2667>
19. *December 21, Agence France-Presse* — **Eighteen Websites illegally selling Tamiflu.** A total of 18 Websites across the world have been identified as illegal sellers of products claiming to be the anti-flu drug Tamiflu. Seven of those Websites were based in the U.S., three of them were in Great Britain and two were in Canada, according to a spokesperson for the United Kingdom's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Switzerland, Bahrain, Jersey, Cyprus, Singapore, and Malta each had one Website claiming to sell the treatment, he added. "All are being investigated by local authorities," the MHRA said in a separate statement, adding that it also was carrying out test purchases on Wednesday, December 21. Tamiflu is considered the most effective treatment available to counter the H5N1 strain of bird flu, which has killed 70 people in Asia since 2003.  
Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051221/hl\\_afp/healthfluetradepr obepharmacompanyrochetamiflu\\_051221164220:\\_ylt=AmIB7rFOdUIN IYDYS1pdX3eJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051221/hl_afp/healthfluetradepr obepharmacompanyrochetamiflu_051221164220:_ylt=AmIB7rFOdUIN IYDYS1pdX3eJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU)
20. *December 21, Houston Chronicle (TX)* — **Health officials confirm a case of measles.** Houston, TX, public health officials are conducting an investigation of a confirmed case of measles and two suspected cases. The three cases traveled to a resort area of Mexico during the Thanksgiving holidays. Test results are expected to be complete in the next few days. Measles is a highly infectious airborne viral disease that has mostly been eliminated through immunization. Since 1991, measles has occurred only sporadically in the U.S., usually in

people with recent foreign travel experience. Measles outbreaks still occur worldwide.

Measles information: <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/diseases/measles/faqs.htm>

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/metropolitan/3540723.htm>

**21. *December 21, Agence France–Presse* — New York strike causes hospital blood shortage.**

New York City's transport strike has cut supplies of blood for hospitals to critical levels and rationing has been imposed, health authorities said. The New York Blood Center (NYBC), the central blood bank for the metropolis, said its "inventory of blood for area hospitals is at great risk and a state of emergency has been declared." The organization made a public appeal for donors of blood and platelets to keep appointments despite chaos caused by transit workers who started a strike on Tuesday, December 20. The NYBC said it needed about 2,000 donations a day from volunteers to guarantee supplies to 200 hospitals in New York and New Jersey.

Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051221/hl\\_afp/ustransportstrike\\_051221191818;\\_ylt=AhEEpfgHyBinZ7NeG0W9nraJOrgF;\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20051221/hl_afp/ustransportstrike_051221191818;_ylt=AhEEpfgHyBinZ7NeG0W9nraJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU)

**22. *December 20, Ohio State University* — Infectious agent thwarts typical defense mechanisms.**

A new study found that an extremely infectious pneumonia–like disease in humans slips through the immune system's usual defense mechanisms. The bacterium at fault, *Francisella tularensis*, causes the disease tularemia. Tularemia is a rare disease with only about 300 cases per year occurring in the U.S. But the disease can make many people very ill very fast, said Mark Wewers, the study's lead author. Researchers found that, unlike other kinds of bacteria, *Francisella* is fully detected by the immune system only after it gets inside a monocyte, an immune cell whose job is to detect pathogens when they enter the body. Most pathogens are detected by sensors on the surface of monocytes, and these cells immediately respond by launching an attack. However, monocytes don't immediately recognize *Francisella* as a threat because the bacteria can bypass those sensors. The fact that *Francisella* can spread so readily makes it an excellent possible weapon for bioterrorism, according to some experts. Understanding how the human immune system reacts to *F. tularensis* may help scientists to better comprehend how the body reacts to other infectious diseases, such as tuberculosis and the plague. This ultimately could lead to better treatments.

Research abstract: <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/content/abstract/0504271103v1>

*Francisella tularensis* infection information:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub\\_tularemia.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_tularemia.htm)

Source: <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/tulabug.htm>

**23. *December 15, Journal of Infectious Diseases* — Prevalence of *Staphylococcus aureus* nasal colonization in the U.S., 2001–2002.**

*Staphylococcus aureus* is a common cause of disease, particularly in colonized persons. Although methicillin–resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) infection has become increasingly reported, population–based *S. aureus* and MRSA colonization estimates are lacking. Nasal samples for *S. aureus* culture and sociodemographic data were obtained from 9622 persons as part of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2001–2002. After screening for oxacillin susceptibility, MRSA and selected methicillin–susceptible *S. aureus* isolates were tested for antimicrobial susceptibility. For 2001–2002, national *S. aureus* and MRSA colonization prevalence estimates were 32.4 percent and 0.8 percent respectively, and population estimates were 89.4 million persons and 2.3 million persons respectively. *S. aureus* colonization prevalence was highest in participants 61

years old. MRSA colonization was associated with age 60 years and being female but not with recent health-care exposure. Many persons in the U.S. are colonized with *S. aureus*; prevalence rates differ demographically. MRSA colonization prevalence, although low nationally in 2001–2002, may vary with demographic and organism characteristics.

Staphylococcus aureus infections information:

[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub\\_staphylococc us.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenus/sub_staphylococc us.htm)

Source: [http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/JID/journal/issues/v193n2/3\\_5385/35385.html](http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/JID/journal/issues/v193n2/3_5385/35385.html)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Government Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Emergency Services Sector**

**24. *December 23, Federal Times* — Secretary Chertoff vows a better, faster disaster response under restructuring.** Plans to reorganize the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will be unveiled within weeks, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said in a speech in Washington, DC, Tuesday, December 20. Chertoff said he wants to remove “unnecessary bureaucratic process and procedure” that he said stifles employees in the field. But guidelines that provide accountability and ensure the department is behaving responsibly will not be removed, he added. “We want to make sure we can act quickly to save lives and address people’s anxieties and concerns on the spot, as quickly as possible and as fairly as possible,” Chertoff said. FEMA should be able to respond to catastrophic events as well as routine hurricanes, Chertoff said. Improving FEMA’s logistics systems, giving department leaders better situational awareness, and improving customer service will be part of the plan, Chertoff said.

Text of Secretary Chertoff's remarks:

[http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/speech/speech\\_0264.xml](http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/speech/speech_0264.xml)

Source: <http://federaltimes.com/index2.php?S=1424188>

**25. *December 22, National Journal* — Gaps in public–private coordination show in hurricane response.** In the event of a disaster like Hurricane Katrina, America's giant corporations have their own emergency–management systems, separate from and parallel to the government's. These businesses have billions in assets to protect. “Those companies that were well prepared weathered the storm...better, and...were able to help their neighbors,” said Alfonso Martinez–Fonts, head of the small private–sector outreach office at the Department of Homeland Security. The question, Martinez–Fonts says, is, “How can we piggyback on that tremendous strength of the private sector?” Working on the answer is Ern Blackwelder, a senior vice president of the advocacy group Business Executives for National Security (BENS). “It takes some effort to put business and government together,” Blackwelder said. “Both sides want to work together, but oftentimes don't know how.” BENS chapters are building invitation–only computer databases of assets that their member companies can make available in a crisis. Participating companies enter information on what they could donate complete with 24–hour

contact information and a commitment to deliver, set up, and if necessary operate the offered equipment. The database software has a tracking system to issue directions and credentials, so that corporate volunteers don't get stuck at police roadblocks or in staging areas.

BENS Website: <http://www.bens.org/>

Source: [http://www.govexec.com/story\\_page.cfm?articleid=33068&dcn=to daysnews](http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33068&dcn=to%20daysnews)

26. *December 22, Associated Press* — **Institute will focus on hurricane issues.** A think tank has announced plans to create an institute to help the hurricane-devastated Gulf Coast by finding long-term solutions to issues such as flood control, housing, education and emergency response. Seven universities in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama are teaming with the California-based nonprofit RAND Corp. to conduct studies through the Gulf States Policy Institute. While many groups have attacked short-term problems from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, not enough attention has been given to long-term challenges, RAND President and CEO James A. Thomson said. Researchers plan to share their findings with local, state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The institute plans to seek roughly \$5 million in annual funding from nonprofits, donors, government and the private sector. The participating schools are University of South Alabama, Jackson State University, University of Southern Mississippi, Tulane University, University of New Orleans, Xavier University and Tuskegee University.

Additional information: <http://www.rand.org/about/katrina.html>

Source: [http://www.cnn.com/2005/WEATHER/12/22/hurricane.institute.ap /index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2005/WEATHER/12/22/hurricane.institute.ap/index.html)

[[Return to top](#)]

## **Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector**

27. *December 21, FrSIRT* — **Apple QuickTime and iTunes remote memory corruption vulnerability.** A vulnerability has been identified in Apple QuickTime and iTunes, which could be exploited by remote attackers to execute arbitrary commands or cause a denial of service. This flaw is due to a memory corruption error when processing malformed ".mov" files, which could be exploited by remote attackers to take complete control of an affected system by convincing a user to visit a specially crafted Web page. Apple QuickTime Player version 7.0.3 and prior, and Apple iTunes version 6.0.1.3 and prior are affected. The FrSIRT is not aware of any official supplied patch for this issue.

Source: <http://www.frsirt.com/english/advisories/2005/3012>

28. *December 21, Security Focus* — **Cisco downloadable RADIUS policies information disclosure vulnerability.** Cisco PIX and VPN 3000 concentrators, when managed by Cisco Secure Access Control Servers are vulnerable to an information disclosure vulnerability. This issue is due to a design flaw that communicates sensitive information over an unencrypted communications channel. This issue allows remote attackers with the ability to gain access to sensitive information if they can sniff network packets traveling between affected devices and the RADIUS server. This information potentially aids them in further attacks. Specific Cisco versions and products affected by this issue are not currently known. The list of affected packages will be updated as further information is disclosed.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/16025/info>

29. *December 21, Federal Computer Week* — **California city among first to use new high-frequency wireless.** A Northern California city is one of the first municipalities in the country to adopt millimeter-wave wireless, a technology that uses high radio frequencies to send data over longer distances than current wireless systems allow. When Manteca, about 75 miles east of San Francisco, finishes installing the technology this week, it will replace a wireless infrastructure that's been in use for years, said Tim Dyke, the city's information technology manager. The point-to-point technology uses spectrum in the 71 to 76 GHz and 81 to 86 GHz ranges. The Federal Communications Commission licensed the spectrum in 2004. A spokesperson for the company installing the technology said the system will allow the city to link high-resolution surveillance cameras among government buildings and other city facilities, such as water pumping stations. Call centers, hospitals and courts can use various voice, video and data applications to transmit private records and communications securely, he added. Because the technology operates in such a high-frequency spectrum, weather conditions such as rain and fog do not cause interference.  
Source: <http://fcw.com/article91789-12-21-05-Web>

30. *December 21, Techworld* — **Security company warns mobile users to be alert in 2006.** Rising threat levels for mobile users should come as no surprise, but McAfee's Avert Labs division has marked 2006 down as a potential turning point in the spread of malware to these platforms. Keylogging Trojans, adware, bots and backdoor programs will all hit users with greater frequency in 2006, with smartphone and "converged" users witnessing damage much greater than that seen on PCs because few currently bother to protect themselves. "Consumers are less likely to install mobile security versus PC security because the perceived risk from mobile threats is much less," a company release said. According to McAfee, mobile malware has grown ten times more rapidly than PC threats over any period of one year, and that in general "potentially unwanted programs" (PUPs) have grown by 40 percent in 2005 alone. The problem appears to be the increasing usefulness of Smartphones and PDAs. Having spent years as technological curiosities, they are now being sold to perform a variety of useful but risky operations such as mobile banking.  
Source: <http://www.techworld.com/security/news/index.cfm?NewsID=5051&Page=1&pagePos=9&inkc=0>

### Internet Alert Dashboard

#### DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

**Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.**

**US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis:** US-CERT is aware of a thirdparty report of multiple heap buffer overflows in the Symantec RAR decompression library (Dec2RAR.dll). Although there is limited information concerning this reported vulnerability, US-CERT encourages users and system administrators to consider filtering or disabling the scanning of RAR archives at email or proxy gateways. However, disabling RAR scanning may compromise the effectiveness of the security

product. In addition, blocking RAR archives may prevent legitimate information from entering the network. By using a specially crafted RAR archive, a remote attacker may be able to perform any of the following malicious activities:

Execute arbitrary code, possibly SYSTEM privileges

Cause a denial of service condition, possibly disabling antivirus capabilities

Take complete control of a vulnerable system

More information can be found in Symantec RAR decompression library contains multiple heap overflows

US-CERT Vulnerability Note VU#305272 at URL:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/305272>

Malware Exploiting Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator Vulnerability (MS05-051) US-CERT is aware of malicious software exploiting a vulnerability in the Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator (MSDTC). Successful exploitation could allow a remote, unauthenticated attacker to execute arbitrary code on the system. For more information about this vulnerability can be found in the following US-CERT Vulnerability Note VU#180868:

Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator vulnerable to buffer overflow via specially crafted network message please see vulnerability note:

<http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls/id/180868>

Microsoft has released an update to address this vulnerability in Microsoft Security Bulletin MS05-051 please see:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/Bulletin/MS05-051.mspx>

US-CERT encourages administrators to apply the appropriate updates as soon as possible.

#### Current Port Attacks

<b>Top 10 Target Ports</b>	1026 (win-rpc), 6881 (bittorrent), 4142 (oidocsvc), 445 (microsoft-ds), 27015 (halflife), 23987 (---), 25 (smtp), 1 (tcpmux), 80 (www), 135 (epmap) Source: <a href="http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html">http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html</a> ; Internet Storm Center
----------------------------	--

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector**

31. *December 21, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission* — **Commission conducts investigation of Taum Sauk Dam breach.** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Joseph T. Kelliher on Wednesday, December 21, announced that teams of engineers are investigating the dam breach at the Taum Sauk hydroelectric facility near Lesterville, MO. The Commission's team of dam safety engineers with the assistance of a panel of outside experts will be engaged in a fact-driven forensic engineering examination to determine what factors contributed to the dam breach. The outside experts will work independently of Commission staff to assure that no facts or failure mechanisms are overlooked. The Commission also has established a dedicated page on the agency's Website designed to help keep the public informed regarding the status of the Commission's investigation, Chairman Kelliher noted. On December 14, the northwest corner of the Taum Sauk project's upper reservoir was breached at 5:20 a.m. CST. Approximately 4,300 acre-feet of stored water, or more than one billion gallons, flowed through the Johnson's Shut-Ins state park and into the East Fork of the Black River, FERC's Office of Energy Projects is spearheading the agency's investigation of this dam breach.
- FERC Website: <http://www.ferc.gov/default.asp>  
Source: <http://www.ferc.gov/press-room/press-releases/2005/2005-4/12-21-05.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

## **General Sector**

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

[DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644.

Subscription and Distribution Information:

Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983-3644 for more information.

### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

**Department of Homeland Security Disclaimer**

The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a non-commercial publication intended to educate and inform personnel engaged in infrastructure protection. Further reproduction or redistribution is subject to original copyright restrictions. DHS provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or accuracy with respect to the original source material.